

As these historical photos show, since the 1950s physical fitness has been an integral part of Bloomington life. For current opportunities, see page 3.

City,” a designation that recognizes Minnesota cities committed to creating and maintaining an environment that supports active living. Providing opportunities for many types of physical activity allows Bloomington residents to be physically active, which improves nearly every aspect of a person’s health. In addition, Parks and Recreation provides the best in amenities through a variety of facilities, programs and events.

BLOOMINGTON TOP 10 #2 FOR FITNESS IN THE U.S.

Our metro area is the second fittest in the U.S., according to a 2009 study by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). We are also ranked second in a separate survey conducted by *Men’s Fitness* magazine. The American Fitness Index uses data on 30 indicators of preventative health, chronic disease and access to health care to rank 45 U.S. metropolitan areas. The Twin Cities metro ranked behind Washington, D.C. and just ahead of Denver, Boston and San Francisco in the ACSM study and just behind Colorado Springs in the *Men’s Fitness* survey. Our area earns high marks for a low percent of people who smoke and the relatively large number of active recreational facilities per capita.

Bloomington has been named as a “Governor’s Fit

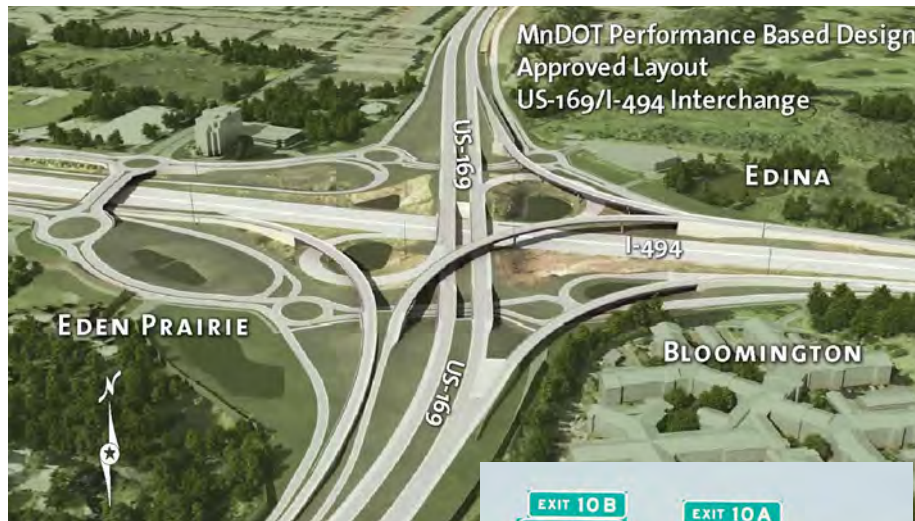


RESTORING TRAFFIC FLOW FUNDING SECURED FOR US-169/I-494 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS

The US-169/I-494 interchange is one of the most significant traffic bottlenecks in the southwest metropolitan area. After many decades of unsuccessful attempts, funding has finally been secured to complete the conversion of US-169 to a full freeway. Construction to remove the remaining traffic signals on US-169 at I-494 is scheduled to begin next spring.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) announced in May that \$172 million has been secured to buy land, move utilities and rebuild the existing interchange. The US-169 corridor accommodates more than 175,000 motorists daily through Edina, Eden Prairie and Bloomington. Converting US-169 at I-494 to a freeway will improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and improve safety in the area.

While the improvement of this interchange is of great regional significance, the project has been in and out of MnDOT’s construction program



many times due to its high cost. To reduce the project’s cost, the City of Bloomington has been working with MnDOT and the cities of Eden Prairie and Edina to redesign the project to lower the cost from \$205 million to \$172 million. The approximate \$30-40 million savings would be realized by delaying the construction of two, lower traffic volume, flyover bridges – eastbound I-494 to northbound US-169 and southbound US-169 to westbound I-494.

The lower-cost, performance-based approach would allow the additional ramps to be added in the future if needed.

A great boost in funding occurred when the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) approved the use of \$34 million of regional funding for this project. TAB is a 34-member group of elected and governor-appointed officials acting to designate funding of regionally beneficial projects.

The remaining funding is a combination of federal, state and local transportation funds.



Utility relocation work could begin this fall, with the major work beginning in spring 2011. The interchange will be open to traffic while being built, similar to the I-35W/Crosstown project. The project is tentatively scheduled to be substantially complete by the end of fall 2013.

For more information, contact Bloomington Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730, e-mail jgates@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit the MnDOT website at www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/169/.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: US-169.

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When you see WEBSITE KEYWORDS, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.

GLOBAL CELEBRATION AN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Explore different world cultures, Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This free event coincides with the Farmers Market and is sponsored by Bloomington Human Services, Human Rights Commission and Parks and Recreation. For more information, call 952-563-8733 or 952-563-8740 TTY.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: GLOBAL CELEBRATION.



PARTY OF THE YEAR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The 27th Annual National Night Out takes place Tuesday, August 3, in neighborhoods throughout Bloomington. National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit.

For more information or to register your block, call Niki Pierson, Proactive Police Services Unit, at 952-563-8808.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: NNO.

2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

The 2010 Primary Election will be held Tuesday, August 10, as a result of new legislation passed by the Minnesota Legislature.

For more information, call the Bloomington City Clerk’s Office at 952-563-8729.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

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